

1103. e. 3. 488
A 25

TRUE RELATION
OF
THE PRODIGIOUS BATTLE
OF
BIRDS,

Fought in the lower Region of the Air,
Between the Cities of *Dole* and *Salines*,
The 26th of *February* last 167^s.₆.

According to the Letters from *Besancon*, of the
First of this Instant *March*, 1 6 7 6.



OXFORD,
Printed for JOHN COLLEY,
Anno Dom. 1676.

100, in the power of the
Baron de C...
The...

According to the Baron de C...
of this...

OXFORD,
Printed for JOHN COCKER
St. Dunstons, 1676.



A
 TRVE RELATION
 OF
 THE PRODIGIOUS BATTLE
 OF
 B I R D S, &c.

SELDOME passes there an Age, in which the God of Nature doth not produce something Surprising and Extraordinary, either to exercise the Faculties of Man, or by Reflecting upon himselfe, to make him sensible of his own Weakness and Inabilities, be it in the search of Nature's *Arcana*, or in embracing the motions of Grace.

But scarce ever hath there been a Prodigy parallel to this, which happened on the Twenty Sixt of the last Month, betwixt *Dole* and *Salines* in the *French-Comté*.

A bout Nine in the Morning there appeared an Army of
 A 2 Birds,

B I
The following is a list of the
names of the children of the
Rev. Mr. [illegible]

According to the list of the children of the Rev. Mr. [illegible]

OXFORD
Printed for JOHN COLETT
At the Press of [illegible]



A
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 THE PRODIGIOUS BATTLE
 OF
 B I R D S, &c.

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 A 2 Birde,

Birds, so numberless that they darkned the very Air, and as if they had design'd that Place for their Rendezvous in order to the ensuing Engagement, after a confused wheeling about for the space of Two Hours, as if there had happened some disagreement amongst them, they fell into Two Bodies, seeming to defy each other : The Effect whereof follows. For after they had given the Signal, with Schrikes and horrible Whizzings in the Air, with which all the Neighbouring Places resounded, they Engaged with all the Circumstances observable betwixt Incensed Armies, led on by Commanders of Equal Bravery and Experience. The Fight began with Skirmishes, but Closing, they Fought for many Hours together with such Eagerness and Animosity on both Sides, that there were found many Thousands upon the Earth, some stifled, some half dead, others embued in blood and torn in pieces, the rest fluttering with wearied wings Retired no man knew whither.

They that had the Curiosity to view the Place, after the Slaughter was ended, observed, among the Birds that lay Dead upon the Ground, a Hundred Kinds differing as well in Shape, as in Bulk and Feather.

Those that were most numerous had Black Feet, weighed Four or Five Pound, had Thick Claws, but very Sharp and Crooked, and Beaks hooked in like those of Parrots; some of them were of a dark Gray, others Ash-Coloured.

Those that were most numerous next to these, were of a Reddish Colour, had Claws that weighed Two Ounces, with Beaks like Herons, and wings extraordinarily thick set with Feathers some Two Foot long. There were others of a Yellow Feather mixt with Black, much bigger,

bigger then Pigeons , with Dented Beaks , footed like Geese, having changeable Feathers.

Others were Yellow , with Beaks Enamelled with Grey and Sea-Green, and talons like Sparrow-hawks, and the same bigness.

Others had beaks long and thick ending in form of a Cornet, and 'tis likely that these were they whose Cries in the Signal, resembled the sound of small Bugle-horns. Their Feathers were of a Sooty colour, their Talons were made like those of Vulturs. It would be tedious to give you an account of all the kinds, for there were some like Doves, others like Bats; and many of such a form, as cannot be express'd, by reason of the little or no resemblance they have to any thing heretofore seen.

Bushes as high as men, were bidden, and the earth covered, with heaps of them in many places for above Five Hundred Paces in length, where the heat of the Battel had been, besides many Huudreds that lay scattered here and there. And others, when they could Fly no longer, flag'd, fell down, and dyed.

Lastly, When their strength was quite exhausted and spent, as divers of the Inhabitants of the County of *Burgundy* relate, People were affrighted with those Doleful and hideous Cries, those poor Creatures breathed forth, with their last.

The Governour of that Province, fearing that the great number of dead Birds might Infect the Air, in the place where they fell, sent many Pioneers from *Dole* to Bury them; some whereof falling Sick, whether by the weakness of the Imagination, which easily suffers from the strong impressiion, usuall upon such extraordinary



